

February 2, 2021

Delegate Dereck E. Davis  
Chair, Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 231  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Davis:

**I am writing to request your favorable support for HB 0419 "Economic Development – Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives."**

I am currently a business and strategy consultant, who provides support for start-up enterprises with unique technology platforms, but whose founders require guidance regarding operations and product commercialization. Previously, I had a 30-year career working for W. R. Grace & Co. of Columbia, MD, where I was responsible for some of their largest catalyst businesses, as well as their technology development, strategy and product commercialization.

In 2020, I participated in a Maryland Clean Energy Center program called the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator. This unique program accelerates the commercialization of new technologies created in Maryland-based universities and Federal Labs with the goal of creating new Maryland-based technology and manufacturing businesses that will have a positive impact on Maryland's climate goals.

For the past several months, I have been engaged by MEIA as an Executive in Residence, providing strategic guidance for HighT-Tech, LLC, a start-up organization that is currently receiving MEIA support. The company's founders are professors at Johns Hopkins and UMD-College Park, where they have developed a unique technology with the potential to provide a variety of solutions for low-energy manufacturing of specialty materials, which will have applications as catalysts, battery components, specialized membranes, etc. All will have a positive impact on the environment, reducing carbon footprint and potentially enabling development of high-performance batteries.

This legislation provides baseline funding for the Maryland Clean Energy Center so that the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator can continue to accelerate Maryland-based technology and manufacturing businesses.

**Your consideration and favorable support of HB 0419 will be much appreciated.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Gatte", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert R. Gatte  
Principal  
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